Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is the home of Eldon William Thornber, and we are richer because Eldon lives among us; and,

Whereas, Eldon was born on May 1, 1909, to William and Mattie (Cuckow) Thornber on a farm near Dell Rapids, South Dakota, one of three children, and in 1911, Eldon's family moved to a farm north of Colman where Eldon attended Allen Grade School and graduated from Colman High School in 1927; and,

Whereas, After a brief time in California working in the orange groves, Eldon returned to Colman and married his high school sweetheart, Frances Cramer on December 2, 1929, and to that 75-year union five children were born: Eldon "Sonny", Sandra, Sue, Donna, and Clayton; and,

Whereas, Eldon spent the majority of his life working the land and raising livestock, but performed many other jobs in order to support his family, he was active in the Farm Bureau, a member of the Odd Fellows Society and the United Methodist Church, and a 4-H leader; and,

Whereas, Elson resides at Riverview Health Care Center, in Flandreau, South Dakota, and will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2009, as

ELDON THORNBER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State